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Leaflet Regarding Rules of Publication.—CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE has prepared a leaflet explaining its rules regarding publication. This leaflet gives suggestions on the preparation of manuscripts and of illustrations. It is suggested that contributors to this Journal write to its office requesting a copy of this leaflet.

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EDITORIALS†

"MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS"

Impending Events, and the Rôle of the Medical Profession.—As the days go by, it becomes more and more apparent that the United States must be prepared for military eventualities which, by the great majority of citizens, were not even thought of a few years ago. The current changes in the map of Europe, due to realignments of peoples and nations, as well as other transformations in international relationships, some impending and others possible within the near future, have made the majority of American citizens more or less war-conscious. Since war is in the air, therefore, it follows that proposed laws concerning selective service, with discussions thereon in Congress, are natural consequences.

Any form of selective service, for whatever age periods may be decided, brings into consideration, almost from the very beginning, the classification of citizens according to two groups: one, whose members will be assigned to military ranks, and the other, those for designated civil activities. In each, however, early decision as to physical and mental fitness must be made. Much of that responsibility of determining who shall and who shall not be assigned to this or the other group will fall upon members of the medical profession.

* * *

American Medical Association Questionnaires Must Be Forwarded.

—Last month's issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE gave an outline on pages 86 and 87 and elsewhere of the Federal and State plans regarding medical preparedness as contemplated in the plans for California. Since any form of national selective service must emanate from the congressional halls in Washington, it follows that basic dicta of the national military and civil authorities will be paramount.

National and State Committees on Medical Preparedness will be called upon, no doubt, in due course to be of very definite service. Through arrangement with the military arms of the Government, the American Medical Association has taken the first important step in the important work by circularizing the entire medical profession, sending to every physician a questionnaire which, after be-

† Editorials on subjects of scientific and clinical interest, contributed by members of the California Medical Association, are printed in the Editorial Comment column which follows.

ing filled in and transmitted to the American Medical Association Committee on Medical Preparedness, at 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, will give to the Association the essential data—in so far as possible service by physicians is concerned—it, in turn, may be called on to forward to the authorities at Washington.

Every member of the California Medical Association owes it to himself and to the California Medical Association to forward his questionnaire. If the blank has been mislaid or otherwise lost, a request sent to the American Medical Association will bring a duplicate. For such coöperation the California Medical Association Committee on Medical Preparedness—of which Dr. Philip K. Gilman, of San Francisco, is chairman—will be most appreciative.

* * *

California State Council of Defense.—The "California State Council of Defense" is an independent State effort, brought into being by Governor Culbert Olson, who appointed a committee of fifty citizens to supervise the alignment of California's resources for military needs. On this committee of fifty, the medical profession is represented by a single physician, Dr. Charles A. Dukes of Oakland. At Doctor Dukes' suggestion, the responsibility of making nominations for the twenty district boards of medical referees, each composed of seven specialists (as outlined on page 87 of last month's CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE), was given to the California Medical Association. Thanks are extended to the presidents of the county medical societies who sent in names of physicians such as might be considered for nomination on the composite boards to be appointed for the twenty districts, the territorial areas of which were also outlined in the summary printed in the August issue. The State Adjutant General will make the final recommendations to the Federal authorities.

In Governor Olson's plan, according to press dispatches,* the State would further be subdivided into some 203 registration or examining areas, the civil officials or committee for each of such units to have as one of the members, a physician. At the time of this writing it is not known who is to select the 203 physicians for this particular service, but it is to be hoped that in all such preparations the maintenance of proper coöperation with the Federal authorities, representatives and plans will not be overlooked. The work is altogether too important to be confused by overlapping or working at cross purposes.

* * *

An Unfortunate Proposal: Nonexemption of Medical Students from Selective Service.—For World War I, no professional or vocational group had a better record of efficient service than the medical profession, and in that great struggle, the wisdom of not inducting medical students into active military service was demonstrated. In present day air warfare, with possibilities of casualties to the

civil population in almost limitless numbers, adequate medical personnels for both military and civil needs are indicated more than ever before. Reference need only be made to the recent announcement in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in which the enlistment of American physicians for civilian service in England was stressed, that request having come through official channels.

Surprising, therefore, are the United Press dispatches from Washington of August 20, in which it is stated:

Starting executive consideration of its version of the measure, the House committee also tentatively approved two other features. One was adoption of the World War exemption for ministers and divinity students. *The other was refusal to provide deferments from service for medical students.*

It is to be hoped that the House Military Affairs Committee will reconsider the proposed nonexemption, since both the public health welfare and that of the military services of the United States would seriously be crippled if such a provision is included in the selective draft law. In an editorial in the *San Francisco Chronicle* on other phases of Selective Service, a statement appears that is particularly pertinent:

There may even be contingencies in which youth can and should be spared so far as possible, not as a matter of special rights but for public policy.

Members of the California Medical Association are requested to follow the course of this proposed legislation. In the meantime, officers of the Association will send informative data to California Congressmen.

COUNCILOR DISTRICT POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCES

Mother Lode Councilor District Sets an Example in Postgraduate Conferences.—To the Mother Lode Councilor District, made up of the following counties: Alpine, Amador, Butte, Colusa, Eldorado, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, Shasta, Sierra, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo and Yuba will belong the honor of having been the first of the nine councilor districts of the California Medical Association to have proposed, and carried through to successful conclusion, a postgraduate conference for the members of the component county societies included in its councilor territory. This pioneer spirit is quite in keeping with the past medical record of the Mother Lode region, since the "Sacramento Society for Medical Improvement"—the name given by its founders to what is now the oldest of the component county units of the California Medical Association—made it possible for California, under the leadership of Thomas M. Logan, M. D., to have the honor of creating the second State Board of Public Health in the United States, as well as reestablishing the Medical Society of the State of California.

* * *

Councilor District Organization Worthy of Consideration.—In this issue's postgraduate column appears the program of the Eighth District

* See item from the *San Francisco News* in this issue, under California State Council of Defense, on page 135.